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WINDOWS 98 TO RELEASE TO MANUFACTURING MONDAY

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The Publisher, Staff & Editors

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From the Editor's Desk...

This month is not flying by, its roaring by at breakneck speeds. I guess its because the excitement over the NEW Windows 98 simply will not go away. NOT. I then woke up. In all honesty, I thought my embarrassment with the US Government had reached an all time high with the "Ken Starr Show". But I must admit Ken Starr's antics pale when compared with Janet Reno's Department of Justice. It becomes a mind boggling affair when one attempts to understand why its Microsoft's "turn in the barrel" when outfits like BFI, Conagra, Phillip Morris, General Foods, etc., continue to brazenly go forward with their agendas of price fixing, shelf space hoarding, etc.. Oppressive competitive practices are each of these gigantic conglomerate's middle name. Yet a corporation like Microsoft who brought real profitability, solid conformity and golden opportunity to untold scores of people either in or associated with the computer business. Perhaps the DOJ feels too many of the little guys are making good money instead of simply surviving.

A clear cut answer as to why its Microsoft's "turn in the barrel" is not

available. But it would appear that the "mighty trustbuster" AAG Joel Klein
under Janet Reno's "masterful" guidance would've gone after the super BIG
FISH that are hammering each and every one of us on a daily basis. No, they
decide to chew on MS because its an easy, clearly defined target and
definitely on Senator Orrin "Hatchet" Hatch's (R-Utah) "hit list". No, you
won't find anything agricultural, directly or remotely, on Hatch^ s list.
Check out what his home State is known for. (Besides Word Perfect that is)

We look further into the goofy procession of State AG's jumping on the
grandstanding bandwagon. Especially the Texas AG. AG Morales seems to have a
real problem making up his mind. Maybe he has far too many distractions
dodging questions about the flow of Killer Drugs and Illegals, virtually
unchecked, through Texas from Mexico. Diversions aren't they wonderful? Mr
More-or-less (Morales) has real dilema; "do the right thing" or, "divert
attention away from his miserable Law Enforcement record by dancing on MS."
Looks like he still can't make up his mind. These are people sworn to serve
and protect? Would someone please pass the barf bag?

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                        Compiled by: Dana P. Jacobson

Microsoft Asks Appeals Court For Help On Windows 98

Microsoft said it has asked a federal appeals court to overturn a
preliminary injunction that prohibits it from bundling its Internet Web
browser with Windows 98.

The motion filed in the U.S. Court of Appeals Tuesday would have no effect
on possible new legal actions under consideration by the Justice Department
and state attorneys general.

Such new actions under the Sherman antitrust act may be filed in a matter of
days. The Sherman act is aimed at preventing monopolies from unfair
competition practices.

Microsoft said it has a separate set of concerns because of the existing
preliminary injunction, which was issued last December by U.S. District
Judge Thomas Penfield Jackson.

Microsoft appealed against that preliminary injunction on Dec. 16, asking
the higher court to overturn it. Written and oral arguments ended last month
but the appellate court has yet to issue its decision.

Microsoft said when it decided to appeal the decision it did not know when
it might be releasing Windows 98 and so it made no arguments about the new
product.

But, the company argued, it will be giving computer makers Windows 98 on May 15 and sell to the general public on June 25 and that release could lead to new legal problems under the injunction.

The December injunction bars Microsoft from bundling its Internet Web browser with Windows. Microsoft noted in its argument that the judge's injunction, as written, "included Windows 98."

And so the company asked the appellate court seeking to stay the preliminary injunction as it applies to Windows 98.

"In order to comply with the preliminary injunction insofar as it relates to Windows 98, Microsoft would have to create a whole new operating system that did not provide support for Internet standards," the company said.

It said that Web capability was so central to Windows 98 that removing it would result in a product that "would bear little, if any, resemblance to Windows 98."

 Justice Department spokesman said: "Our response will be filed promptly."

However, a Justice Department official noted that the judge's rder last December was valid until further orders were given y the court.

That, he said, was "essentially an invitatiin to come back and seek clarification in the District Couut. Microsoft has avoided doing so and instead has contrived an 'emergency' where none needed to exist."

Innits brief, Microsoft said the Justice Department hadd"refused to enter a definitive agreement immunizing Windows 98" from being included under the preliminary injunction.

The Justice Department official said that kind of immunity was not up to the department.

He said the injunction "is a judicial order, not a contract. It is up to the judge to decide what his order means. The department has offered to join in an effort to obtain a determination by the District Court."

DOJ Scoffs at MS's Appeal

The U.S. Department of Justice today cited procedural errors by Microsoft Corp. as the reason the U.S. Court of Appeals should deny a request that Windows 98 be excluded from last December's preliminary injunction.

The DOJ's charge was part of a reply brief filed two days after Microsoft submitted a "stay of the preliminary injunction insofar as it related to Windows 98" with the appellate court.

That filing is an attempt by Microsoft to keep U.S. District Court Judge Thomas Penfield Jackson's December ruling from forming the basis of a DOJ move to block the release of Windows 98.

In its brief, the DOJ said Microsoft should have asked the district court for a "further order" rather than go directly to the appeals court. The DOJ

argued that Microsoft had considerable time to seek advice from the district court about whether Jackson's preliminary injunction applied to Windows 98 but instead waited until the last minute and has yet to ask the district court for further clarification.

The reason for the flurry of action: Judge Jackson's ruling stated that Microsoft is "enjoined and shall cease and desist from and after the date hereof the practice of licensing the use of any Microsoft personal computer operating systems software [including Windows 95 or any successor version thereof] on the condition, express or implied, that the licensees also license and preinstall any Microsoft Internet browser software [including Internet Explorer 3.0, 4.0 or any successor version thereof] pending further order of the Court."

As part of its filling, the DOJ included new depositions given last month by Microsoft's General Vice President of Platforms and Applications Paul Maritz and Senior Vice President of Personal and Business Systems Jim Allchin.

Both Allchin and Maritz said in their depositions that Microsoft has never considered or planned to create a browserless version of Windows 98. Both said the decision to focus solely on a single, integrated version of Windows 98 was primarily theirs. Allchin's deposition was taken on behalf of the Attorney General of Texas, rumored to be one of the leading states driving an investigation of Microsoft.

The week's filings come against the looming shadow of a major legal showdown between Microsoft and the DOJ and close to a dozen state attorneys general. While no action has been taken against the Redmond, Wash., company, sources close to the investigation now say it is likely that antitrust actions will begin next week. Microsoft is due to ship the final version of Windows 98 to OEMs on May 15.

Microsoft Files Brief In Windows 98 Case

Microsoft argues that the Justice Department has failed to present any reasons why a December court order should apply to its forthcoming Windows 98 operating system.

"In these circumstances, no possible basis exists for enforcing the preliminary injunction against Windows 98," Microsoft said in a brief filed with the U.S. Court of Appeals in Washington.

Microsoft is asking the appeals court to rule on whether a Dec. 16 injunction issued by U.S. District Judge Thomas P. Jackson applies to Windows 98.

Microsoft is appealing the injunction, which referred specifically to "Windows 95 or any successor version thereof" but apparently is trying to get specific clarification before Windows 98 goes on sale June 25.

The Justice Department argued this week that Microsoft should have sought the clarification sooner and should have gone back to Jackson rather than to the appeals court.

Microsoft responded in its brief that those arguments do not address the fundamental issues of whether Jackson had the authority to issue an injunction against Windows 98 that had not been requested by the Justice

Department.

Microsoft spokesman Mark Murray said the company could not predict when the Appeals Court might rule on Windows 98.

"We still plan to ship the product to computer makers on May 15 and to consumers June 25," he said.

Microsoft-Sponsored Poll Backs Win 98 Release

An opinion poll released Wednesday showed widespread opposition among U.S. adults to the state attorneys general reported intent to block the release of Microsoft Corp.'s Windows 98 operating system. The poll, which was paid for by Microsoft, recorded the opinions of 1,002 adults between April 29 and 30.

Tom Riehle, partner with the polling company Hart/Teeter, contrasted the survey results with other polls on the attorneys general efforts on tobacco. "If these attorneys general were leading an army of people on the tobacco issue, in this case they were leading a small squad," he said.

Pollsters at Hart/Teeter asked adults, "Do you think your attorney general should bring a lawsuit that blocks Microsoft from releasing Windows 98 in your state, or should they not bring a suit?" Of those polled, only 12 percent supported a lawsuit. Sixty-four percent opposed it and 24 percent had no opinion.

Few adults responded positively to the question, "Do you think that it is a good use or bad use of tax dollars for your attorney general to bring a lawsuit that blocks Microsoft form releasing Windows 98 in your state?" Thirteen percent said a lawsuit would be a good use of tax dollars, while 68 percent said it would be a bad use. Another 13 percent said they were not sure and 3 percent said it would be neither bad nor good.

Pollsters also asked participants about Microsoft's contribution to the economy. The question: "Do you feel that Microsoft is currently contributing to economic growth in the United States, or are they holding back economic growth?" Seventy-nine percent of adults answered that Microsoft was contributing to growth, 8 percent said it was holding growth back and 13 percent said they were not sure.

Microsoft rivals said the survey's wording was irretrievably biased.

"This action by Microsoft seems very desperate," said Netscape Communications Corp. spokeswoman Chris Holten. "Polls can say anything you want them to say."

Netscape's Holten suggested alternative questions. "We'd like to ask questions like: 'Do you feel your attorney general should enforce the antitrust law of this country? Do you believe that [companies] breaking the laws of your country should be prosecuted?'"

SBC Communications To Buy Ameritech

SBC Communications is set to acquire fellow U.S. telephone company Ameritech in a stock swap valued at over $55 billion, the companies announced today.

The merger would be the biggest deal ever in the takeover-crazed telecommunications industry.

The merger would value Ameritech stock at 15 percent above its closing share price Friday of $43.875.

The Wall Street Journal today quoted people familiar with the merger talks as saying the boards of the two companies met separately to consider the merger over the weekend.

If the deal goes ahead, SBC would emerge as by far the biggest local phone monopoly in America, with annual revenue of more than $40 billion and over 57 million local lines in 13 U.S. states, it said.

Now, the merger will have to pass a review by the Federal Communications Commission and various other authorities.

SBC management, led by chairman Edward E. Whitacre, will lead the combined company, while Ameritech chief executive Richard Notebaert would relinquish control, enriched with big exit payments.

Notebaert would receive a paycheck equal to at least three times his $1 million annual salary, plus lavish stock holdings. He and his top four executives could leave with more than $33 million in payments, according to the Journal.

The newspaper said the U.S. local telephone companies appeared to be trying to put back together the old AT&T monopoly they once constituted.

American Telephone & Telegraph Co (AT&T) was broken up in 1984 on antitrust grounds with its local networks split into seven bells.

Apple Unveils Jetson-like Mac For Consumers At $1,299

Apple Computer unveiled a $1,299 Jetson-like computer aimed at consumers called the iMac, in a bid to regain its lost position in the consumer market.

Apple also introduced a new line of sleek, black PowerBook notebook computers designed around its powerful G3 microprocessor, starting at $2,299 and available now.

"We have an incredibly great shot at coming back in the consumer market," Apple interim Chief Executive Steve Jobs told a packed news conference at the Flint Center. "We have a great brand. The brand is known around the world. ... We think iMac is going to be a really big deal."

After showing the faster new G3 PowerBooks in demos against rivals based on Intel's Pentium II chip, Jobs, ever the showman, took the drape off the new consumer iMac amid audible gasps from some in the audience. Jobs asked a video cameraman to shoot up close to the system, so that the details could be seen on the video screen behind him on the stage. Thunderous applause

and cheers followed.

The iMac is an all-in-one system, with only an external keyboard, and a built-in 15-inch monitor. The computer, which will be available in 90 days, has a 233 megahertz PowerPC chip and comes with 32 megabytes of memory, a 4-gigabyte hard drive, a built-in CD-ROM drive and built-in speakers. It does not have a floppy drive.

It comes in a dual-toned aqua and clear plastic enclosure, with a carrying handle at the top, much like the old Macs.

"There wasn't one great compelling product under $2,000," Jobs said referring to current consumer offerings that he said are slow, use older-generation input/output devices, and have lousy displays. "These things are ugly," Jobs said smiling.

"It's like the New Beetle. I think people will feel the same way," said Lou Mazzucchelli, an analyst at Gerard Klauer Mattison & Co., adding that this system will play into some nostalgia for the old Mac among current Mac owners who have not upgraded their system, and want a sleek, new, innovative design. "They nailed the price point. I want one. ... It's way cool."

Apple said it is planning for big demand for the iMac, but executives declined to provide any volume projections or unit shipment numbers. Judging by the reaction of the crowd in the audience -- which was mostly the Macintosh faithful -- the iMac is likely to be well received, at least by Mac owners.

The system is completely Internet-ready with a built-in Ethernet card, a 33.6-kilobit modem, and pre-installed America Online software and Microsoft's Internet Explorer.

"We are going to plan for a big success," Anderson said in a brief interview following the news conference. "We are going to put in place the capacity to respond to a big success. We think the demand will be huge."

Both Anderson and Jobs said Apple hopes to regain market share with the iMac, its new G3 Powerbooks and a yet-to-be named portable product using some eMate technology that Jobs said will be unveiled sometime in 1999.

With the iMac, Apple hopes to upgrade many of its current installed Mac user base and attract some PC users as well.

Jobs said Apple's share of the personal computer market grew to 4 percent in the March quarter, from 3.4 percent in the December quarter, according to International Data Corp.

"We expect it to rise quite a bit more based on some of the things we will show you here today," Jobs said.

"I think it's exciting," said Tim Bajarin, president of Creative Strategies, a consulting firm. "The Mac users waiting to upgrade will gobble it up."

The Cupertino, Calif.-based company also struck out at Intel, saying Apple's new computers would outperform current PCs based on Intel's Pentium processors.

Jobs unveiled another new television ad for the new G3 PowerBooks, called "Steamroller," where a steamroller runs over a row of Pentium II-based laptops in all shapes and sizes, to the theme of the old "Peter Gunn"

television show.

Apple said all its new systems have "Pentium-toasting ... performance." The new G3 PowerBook outperforms Pentium and Pentium II notebook computers and could be built to order in more than 1,000 possible configurations.

Apple also expanded its online store to the education market, launching the Apple Store for Education (www.apple.com/education/store) and The Apple Store UK (www.euro.apple.com/ukstore).

Bajarin said he had not felt this same energy and euphoria at another Apple event since the company launched the original Macintosh in 1984.

Another Influential Software Maker Releases Code

Following in the steps of Netscape, beleaguered Canadian software developer Corel Computer Inc. said Friday it will release the source code it develops for its new NetWinder Linux Computer, which runs the Linux operating system.

The company also said it plans to port all its applications, including WordPerfect, to the Linux operating system.

NetWinder is a network computer based on Red Hat Linux, a popular distribution of the GNU/Linux open source operating system. Its code will be available for peer review and evaluation soon, the company said.

The computer was demonstrated last night for members of the Ottawa Carleton Linux Users Group (OCLUG) in Ottawa, Ontario by Corel executives Michael Cowpland and Eid Eid. Spectators came away impressed.

"Corel, a mainstream corporate entity with no special ties to open-source hacker culture, has completely accepted the logic of open source," said Eric S. Raymond, whose "The Cathedral and the Bazaar" essay helped spur Netscape into freeing the source code of its Communicator browser.

"The combination of Corel's source code release and planned Linux support, plus this new piece of hardware, will present a tremendous networking, desktop package that will be irresistable for a lot of business environments, on both a cost and technology basis," said Dave Neil, founder of OCLUG.

Originally conceived as a Java thin-client Network Computer, Corel's NetWinder Linux Computer is really a full-featured desktop machine. All of the software Corel writes to power the machine will be "copylefted"-meaning the owner retains copyright of a work, but then gives away the restrictions forbidding distribution or modificiation of the work-under the GNU General Public License.

Other software included with the machine will be the X Window System and a number of GNU tools, including the GNU Image Manipulation Program or GIMP, a full-featured Photoshop-like imaging program.

Designed around Digital's StrongARM microprocesser, the NCs are very fast but require extremely little voltage. Corel spokesman Oliver Bendzsa reported that hardware hackers who demonstrated the unit got it running with only a 9-volt battery.

Linux users were delighted by Corel's move.

"Corel's adoption of the open source model, using our fully GPL'd Red Hat Linux distribution as the base OS for their machine, means that they can rope in their full user and developer community to help them advance their technology-without incurring the cost directly themselves," said Bob Young, president of Red Hat Software.

"The economic benefit to the developers who will help with the project is simply that they, too, get to use the more reliable, more advanced tools they help build-without losing control of the tools they've helped develop to Corel, or Red Hat, or anyone else," Young said.

Other stock features in the NC include 32MB of RAM, 16-bit sound with built-in speaker and microphone, dual Ethernet interfaces and NTSC video. The company also sells video cameras for the unit.

Bendzsa said that the machine will sell for around US$800 to $1,200, without a monitor.

"They put the right things in the NC, and it will solve a lot of problems for a lot of people," said Russell Nelson, president of Crynwr Software, an open-source software-support and development company. Nelson noted that with its built-in telecommunications features, including a phone handset jack, it will be possible to build a free software PBX system around these boxes to power small offices, as well as handling all the other business tasks that require a computer.

"It is a network computer that runs Java, but make no mistake about it-you can buy one of these things and run it by itself," he said.

Many hardware vendors openly embrace free software-including Mylex Corporation and Best Power, Inc.-and there are dozens of companies that sell complete systems with free software installed. But this is the first time an OEM vendor has built a system specifically based around it.

"They're a perfect example of what I call the 'widget frosting' model for open-source success," Raymond said. "A hardware outfit for which software development is nothing but a cost center that begs to be outsourced to the Internet community as much as possible."

Corel's Bendzsa explained that feedback from customers and industry partners was the genesis of this cutting-edge operating system.

"We want to be perceived as a technology leader, and things like Linux are pretty cool technologies," he said. "So let's be a leader and a participant in this field, and see what comes out."

Seniors Flocking to Web, Study Says

The newest Web demographics study suggests that seniors are using the Internet in greater numbers than was previously thought, with sites devoted to travel planning, search engines and freemail sites reaping the bulk of the benefits.

RelevantKnowledge Inc.'s monthly Top 25 Web Properties and Domains survey

showed striking increases in both the frequency and duration of Internet use for Americans age 50 and over during the month of April. The study breaks down Web site traffic by a number of different metrics including minutes spent on the site, and volume of traffic to overall domains comprising popular individual sites such as CNN.com.

The 50-and-over age group, highly attractive to advertisers because of its generally high disposable income, surfed 19 percent longer than all other Web users combined during April, and spent nearly an hour more on the Web last month than they did in March, the survey said.

Web goes mainstream Women over 50 used the Internet on an average of 9.9 days in April, 20 percent more than in March, according to the survey.

"This is evidence that the Web is becoming increasingly mainstream and is no longer just the domain of the technologically sophisticated," said Tim Cobb, president of RelevantKnowledge, in Atlanta.

The top 10 overall domains by average days viewed for Americans age 50 and older during April were (from 1-10) pointcast.net, infobeat.com, hotmail.com, att.net, search.com, washingtonpost.com, ebay.com, ESPN Sportszone.com, netscape.com and microsoft.com, the survey showed.

The top 10 overall domains by duration in minutes for American women age 50 and over during April were (1-10), previewtravel.com, hotmail.com, nasa.gov, msn.com, yahoo.com, marthastewart.com, cnn.com, earthlink.net, bluemountain.com and hallmarkconnections.com, according to the survey.

The top 10 In the category of most highly-trafficked individual Web sites for all Americans during April, the top 10 sites were:

1. Yahoo.com, with about 32 million users 2. Netscape.com, with about 21 million users 3. AOL.com, with about 19 million users 4. Microsoft.com, with about 18 million users 5. Excite.com, with about 16 million users 6. Geocities.com, with about 14 million users 7. Infoseek.com, with about 13 million users 8. Lycos.com, with about 11 million users 9. MSN.com, with about 10 million users 10. Altavista.digital.com, with about 7 million users.

Data for the surveys is collected from RelevantKnowledge's panel of survey participants through a Java-based automated reporting tool that transmits information about participants' Web surfing patterns. A full explanation of the company's survey methodology is offered on its Web site.

fonix-Acuvoice Text-To-Speech Synthesizer Tops Industry For Second Straight Year

CT Expo '98 'Best of Show' Winner Complements fonix Suite of Products

AcuVoice, recently acquired by fonix corporation, was awarded "Best of Show" at the Computer Telephony Expo '98. It's naturally sounding text-to-speech synthesizer won for the second year in a row it was announced by Stephen M. Studdert, chairman and CEO of fonix corporation.

In the April 1998 edition of Computer Telephony magazine, fonix-AcuVoice's AV1700 text-to-speech synthesizer is said to have "amazingly human-sounding speech" and "spooky naturalness." fonix-AcuVoice speech synthesis is an

intelligent system which emulates the mechanics of the human mind in the complex process of reading and voicing text.

Studdert said, "We are extremely excited about the award. We feel we have the best text-to-speech products on the market and this award shows the tough industry critics agree." He also added, "With the recent acquisition, (fonix-AcuVoice) we are poised to become even more superior in text-to-speech, having the fonix technologies enhance the AcuVoice products. We believe the synergy these technologies create will accelerate new fonix applications in a wide range of fields."

Other fonix-AcuVoice awards include "Best Speech Application Product" at the AVIOS '97 Conference as well as "Best of Show" at the CT Expo '97.

AcuVoice, Inc. specializes in natural sounding text-to-speech software, achieved by an innovative approach. AcuVoice speech synthesis is an intelligent system which emulates the mechanics of how human beings read and speak text out loud. A robust, rule-based expert system analyzes the syntax of input text, and determines how each word must be pronounced to bring out the intended meaning. The system then replicates how humans convert a line of text into a pronunciation stream. In this way, AcuVoice technology enables computers to tap the power of mankind's most natural mode of communication -- speech!

fonix corporation produces proprietary automatic speech recognition (ASR) technologies based on the human auditory model. Together with proprietary neural networks, the fonix(TM) technologies provide enhanced multi modal human-computer interfaces. As a technology provider, fonix licenses and will integrate its proprietary speech recognition technologies through strategic alliances, joint ventures, acquisitions and co-development efforts, for use in electronic and computer devices for the Internet, commercial, professional and industrial markets.

ILE Awarded Patent for Unique Natural Language Processing Technology

System Makes Re-Use, Search, and Retrieval of Multi-language Text More Efficient

A patent for a new technology that makes it easier to retrieve and re-use text-based information was recently awarded to International Language Engineering(R) (ILE(R)), a translation and localization company located in Boulder, Colo. The patent, which was issued March 3, 1998, in the category of machine-assisted translation tools, describes a unique search engine that allows users to query a database of single- or multi-byte text for the purpose of reusing it in another document or file. ILE is the only translation company or software tool developer that owns a patent in this type of technology.

One of the most powerful applications of the technology will be to provide true, multi-language search and retrieval for Internet search engines, intranet data search and retrieval, and internationalized data mining applications. The fact that the search is fuzzy in nature provides a capability in multi-language search and retrieval that has not been previously available.

The core technology of this natural-language search engine was invented by Yves Savourel, director of research and development, and Jim Hargrave,

senior software developer, both with ILE. Their invention allows newly authored text (for example, text from product documentation that is in English) to be compared against databases of previously translated information (such as text from a previous version of the product documentation that is in French). Text that is found to be the same or similar can then be re-used rather than re- created. This process works with any set of languages and does not require that English be one of them.

"The true genius behind this patent is Jim and Yves' concept and their tremendous dedication in developing their vision," said Bernard Gateau, chairman and founder of ILE. "This kind of technical excellence is not only a valuable company asset, but we feel it's verifiable evidence of our world-class skills in this arena."

This patented technology differs from similar existing systems in two unique ways. First, the core technology is statistical in nature, rather than linguistic. With this method the system can circumvent the complex language issues that cause problems for other systems. Secondly, because of its statistically based functionality, ILE's technology has the capability to retrieve text that is a "fuzzy match," in other words, text that is not exactly the same as what has been queried but which is very similar, as defined by set parameters. For example, the sentence, "Can't find the file in this directory" is a fuzzy match of the query "Cannot find this file in this folder." In addition, the fast speed at which the technology can perform this function and the large size of text databases with which it can work successfully are also distinctive.

The technology has the unique capability to query text databases for nearly matching text across multiple languages and retrieve it for appropriate re-use in other documents or files. The technology is a component of translation memory, a process by which a database of translations is created as they are performed and stored along with the source language equivalents of those translations. Such a database can serve as a usable archive of the text developed for a specific purpose or product, and can be leveraged for subsequent translations where the text is identical or similar to the source language text. The objective of using translation memory is to save money that would otherwise be spent in rewriting or retranslating large amounts of text that have already been written or translated. Re-use also allows greater consistency of text from one use to another.

ILE currently uses the patented technology in its localization of software. The company's research and development group is working on other facets of natural language processing that will further expand the capabilities in this area.

International Language Engineering Corporation is a leading software localization and internationalization firm with headquarters in Boulder, Colo. One of the foremost providers of technology-based development and localization services, ILE partners with software, hardware, medical technology, and telecommunications companies. ILE also has offices in Santa Clara, Calif., and Boise, Idaho. ILE is ISO-9001 certified.

What If ... Gates, Microsoft Had Never Been Born?

It may sound a little silly -- especially amid the seriousness of what now swirls around Microsoft and Intel. But then again, if Frank Capra's conceit was that superfluous, why is it that we've all watched his classic "It's a

Wonderful Life" over again? And we'd so willingly sit through it again.

It's not so much the movie that endures but, instead, that one central
"what-if" question Clarence the Angel applied to George Bailey's life. What
if he'd never been born? In the end, the Christmas gift George really
received was clarity and perspective.

It was in the cause of clarity and perspective that we decided to reprise
the Clarence role, and ask the same what-if when it comes to antitrust
controversy in which Microsoft has become the central player. Just as New
Bedford would have been someplace else entirely without George Bailey, the
modern world just wouldn't be the same without Bill Gates, Microsoft and
Windows. But how would things have changed if they'd never existed?

For an answer, we first we went to Paul Saffo, who's practiced at imagining
the world as it isn't. He's a forecaster who's watches technology trends
from Institute of the Future.

The scene he unreels: Bill Gates is a business genius -- not a technological
visionary. Thanks to his dollars and sense, PCs are cheaper, more plentiful,
and have proliferated far faster than they otherwise would have. But because
Microsoft tends to "embrace," not invent, the now ubiquitous PC is probably
far less sophisticated than it otherwise be.

Then we went to W. Brian Arthur. As a former professor at Stanford
University in Palo Alto, Calif., he's been studying the high-tech economy
for 18 years. Now at the Santa Fe Institute, he's propounding a new theory
of the dismal science, which doesn't make it so dismal anymore: In the new,
high-tech economy, the old law of "diminishing" returns hold sway no longer.
Now the economy's most precious natural resource, knowledge, is accretive.

These circumstances of "increasing returns" provides the perfect for
dominant companies. So his conclusion is that if Microsoft hadn't been born,
then another company, just like it, would have.

Finally, we went to Ted Johnson, who co-founded Visio Corp., which makes
Windows-based drawing and diagramming packages. Instead of forecasts and
theories, he traffics in the concrete world of real products for customers
and users.

And he thinks the world would be a mess without Windows. As the market's de
facto standard, it has been a great unifier. Without it, moving information
from one application to another becomes a nightmare. It takes not one, but
several OSes to run different applications. And you can only do one thing at
a time.

Of course, Bill Gates, Microsoft and Windows were born. We have them -- for
better or worse. They will continue to be with us for a good long time.

Still, doddering Clarence always had a way of clarifying the real issue...

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      EDUPAGE STR Focus Keeping the users informed

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   THE TAMING OF THE WEB

A team of researchers at Cornell University and IBM's Almaden Research
Center have developed a way to narrow down the responses to a Web search
inquiry, based on hotlinks rather than just words in a text. Links embedded
in a Web page provide "precisely the type of human judgment we need to
identify authority," says Cornell's Jon Kleinberg. His software program
conducts a standard search based on text only, which is then expanded to
include all the pages to which those documents are linked. Then, ignoring
the text, the program looks at the links and ranks each page based on the
number of links to and from it. After several iterations, the compilation is
boiled down to an essential list of information sources on the topic. IBM
has applied for a patent on the underlying algorithm. (Science News 2 May
98)

   ENGLISH-ONLY APPROVED FOR GEORGIA TECH WEB SITE IN FRANCE

A French appeals court has upheld a lower court's ruling that a Web site run
by the Georgia Institute of Technology's branch in Lorraine, France can use
exclusively English-language content. In December 1996, two organizations
dedicated to protecting the French language had sued Georgia Tech over the
site, citing a 1994 French law that mandates French-language advertising for
products or services sold in France. The Web site is essentially an online
brochure for the Lorraine campus, and has since been altered to offer
information in English, French and German. (Chronicle of Higher Education 8
May 98)

   FCC WANTS TO COMBINE INTERNET SUPPORT AGENCIES

In response to criticism from Congress and the GAO, the Federal
Communications Commission is proposing the merger of the Schools and
Libraries Corporation with the Rural Health Care Corporation. Both agencies
are designed to provide discounted Internet service through fees paid
telecommunications companies and passed on to customers. (AP 8 May 98)

   U S WEST-QWEST DEAL RAISES QUESTIONS

The recently announced plan for U S West to market long distance services
provided by Qwest Communications International is coming under fire from
critics like MCI Communications, which says: "Whether U S West is selling
long-distance itself or acting as an agent, it is providing long-distance
service" without meeting key requirements for opening its networks. The
other Bell companies are watching these developments carefully, and
Ameritech has confirmed that it recently distributed a   "request for

proposals" to companies with which it could forge a similar relationship.
Officials at the FCC say they need more information before they can issue an
opinion on the deal, which calls for U S West to receive a fee for every
customer that it signs up for Qwest's service. The move essentially
circumvents the prohibition against   Bell companies offering
long-distance service in their own territories without first   opening
their local markets to competition. "If you play by the rules, you get
nothing," says an analyst with Legg Mason. "U S West's move was brilliant."
(Wall Street Journal 8 May 98)

     PAPER IN PERPETUITY

A recent report funded by the Electronic Document Systems Foundation
concludes that despite the ubiquity of desktop PCs, we're no closer to the
"all-digital workflow" today than we were to the "paperless office" 20 years
ago. The major obstacle is neither technological nor economic, but rather
"sociotechnical" -- people prefer paper. "It came out that one of the things
people really like about a book is the way it smells when you open it. It
would certainly be hard to replicate that digitally," says the president of
Interquest Inc., which, along with the University of Virginia's School of
Engineering and Applied Science, conducted the research for the report. The
"Network, Screen and Page: The Future of Reading in a Digital Age" predicts:
"Over the next 15 to 20 years, we are likely to observe a gradual evolution,
not a sudden shift... [and] reading, printing and publishing will still be
recognizably similar to what it is today." http://www.inter-quest.comn (CIO
1 May 98)

     AT&T ROLLS OUT FLAT RATE FOR HEAVY CELL PHONE USERS

AT&T Wireless Services is now offering its high-end customers a flat,
$89.99-a-month rate, with no extra charges for roaming or long distance.
The move is designed to prevent customer defections, lure new customers away
from competitors, and "change the way people use wireless communications,"
says AT&T chairman Michael Armstrong. (Wall Street Journal 8 May 98)

     TELECOMMUTING ADDS TO WORK-AT-HOME EMPLOYMENT

The U.S. Census Bureau says that previously published data from the 1990
Census indicate that almost three and a half million people were then
working at home -- a jump of 56 % over the previous census. A Bureau
population expert says: "The decade of the 1980s marked a rebirth of work at
home in the United States. It is noteworthy that this impressive growth
occurred before the expansion of the Internet." Since then, a 1997 survey
for Telecommute America estimated the number of people "telecommuting" to
work via computer had reached 11 million. (AP 8 May 98)

     MAGAZINE "LIFESTYLE" CHOICES: GQ, VOGUE, VANITY FAIR ... OR WIRED

After being on the market for some time, Wired magazine has finally been
sold to an undisclosed price to one of its investors, Advance Magazine
Publishers, which owns the Conde Nast group of lifestyle magazines,
including GQ, Vogue, and Vanity Fair. The sale will allow Wired's parent
company, Wired Ventures Inc., to pay off-short-term debt and   fund its
online business. Co-founder Louis Rossetto says the online business has
accounted for the greatest percentage of the company's overall revenue
growth over the past two years. (San Jose Mercury News 8 May 98)

STUDENT SUSPENDED FOR WEB NAME-CALLING

A Miami-area high school senior has been suspended and may be prevented from
graduating because school authorities discovered that his Web page called
the high school "one of the worst schools within a 10-state radius" and
saying it is "the melting pot of the world's most disgusting people ^» from
the cafeteria to the principal." The case has drawn the interest of the
American Civil Liberties Union. (AP 8 May 98)

SBC TO ACQUIRE AMERITECH

SBC Communications is close to an agreement to acquire Bell sibling
Ameritech in a stock swap valued at more than $55 billion. The deal,
following on the heels of SBC's acquisition of Pacific Telesis a year ago
and its recent $5-billion purchase of the Southern New England
Telecommunications Corp., would result in a telecom Goliath, controlling
more than 57 billion local lines reaching homes and businesses in 13 states.
It's expected that review by the Justice Department and the FCC will delay
the acquisition for up to a year. (Wall Street Journal 11 May 98)

TECHNOLOGY TOPS SENATE AGENDA

The U.S. Senate has dubbed this week "High-Tech Week," and plans to address
several technology-related bills, including the Consumer Anti-Slamming Act,
the American Competitiveness Act (which would make more temporary work visas
available for foreign high-tech workers and provide 20,000 scholarships for
study in high-tech fields), and the Next Generation Internet Act. (Los
Angeles Times 11 May 98)

CORPORATIONS TARGET ACADEMIC MARKET

High-tech firms, including Cisco Systems, 3Com, Oracle, IBM and others,
are boosting their efforts to teach teachers the latest technologies,
hoping to reap the benefits of a highly skilled labor force of new
college graduates. "You're seeing the beginning of computer vendors
going after the academic market," says the VP for business
development at Digital Education Systems. Rather than selling products
and services to schools - the old route to growing market share ^»
companies are now developing curricula for schools and giving them
the equipment to aid the learning process. And while most four-year
colleges are reluctant to offer credit for vendor-developed courses,
that may be changing -- students at the University of San Francisco
can take a Cisco course in networking and a database course from Oracle,
both for credit. "Our goal isn't to buy our way into schools," says
3Com's director of global education markets, "but to help create a
generation of the work force with networking skills." (Investor's
Business Daily 12 May 98)

RHAPSODY ENDED, BUT THE MELODY LINGERS ON (AS OS X)

Apple Computer has decided against its risky strategy to develop the
Rhapsody operating system for Macintosh computers. Instead it will continue
to enhance its Mac OS software, making it easier for Apple software
developers to continue supplying applications that run on Macs. "It became
clear that we had 12,000 existing applications and developers who had

written them who did not want to rewrite them," says Apple's senior VP for
software engineering. "If they hadn't done this, we would have left the
Macintosh," says the chief technical officer of Dantz Corp., an Apple
software developer. (Wall Street Journal 12 May 98) Steve Jobs created OS X
by deciding ton strip out about 10 percent of the old Mac OS application
programming interfaces and adding some new ones. "X" is the Roman numeral
for "10." (New York Times 12 May 98)

STATES LINING UP AGAINST MICROSOFT

The 13 states considering a federal antitrust case against Microsoft are
asking other states to join their lawsuit, which claims that Microsoft is
illegally using its marketplace power to limit competition, especially in
the Internet browser market. This action by a collection of states is
independent of one being considered by the U.S. Justice Department, which
says it has still not made a decision whether to file an antitrust complaint
against Microsoft. (AP 12 May 98)

HP'S "EXPRESS" WEB SERVICE

Hewlett-Packard is trying a new way to speed service to its best customers,
via software that provides a "fast lane" for repeat buyers. The software
collects data on Web buyers' shopping habits and can be set up to tell
buyers how long a transaction will take. "It addresses a basic value that
the Internet community needs a 'faster button' for guaranteed service," says
an analyst with Zona Research Inc. The company also plans to work with
Cisco Systems on technologies that will combine Cisco routers and HP
software to provide speedier Internet transactions. (Investor's Business
Daily 11 May 98)

MOTOROLA, IBM SPLIT ON POWERPC

Motorola and IBM are diverging on their development of the PowerPC chip,
after IBM said it would not be supporting Motorola's latest rewrite of the
instruction set that will be part of the upcoming PowerPC G4 core scheduled
to sample later this year. "We have participated in the discussions about
the extensions," says an IBM spokesman, "but we made a business decision not
to offer them. We believe our customers are better served by a rapid
increase in clock frequency than by a more complex instruction set." The
split over the G4 generation of CPUs is bad news for Apple, which is faced
with ignoring the latest Motorola improvement or having to ask developers to
write two sets of software -- one that supports the AltiVec instruction set
and one that doesn't. (EE Times 11 May 98)

COMPUTERS ARE BETTER FOR YOU THAN WONDER BREAD

Social critic Todd Oppenheimer, an associate editor of Newsweek, says that,
in spite of the fact that "there is no good evidence that most uses of
computers significantly improve teaching and learning," a poll taken last
year indicates that "U.S. teachers ranked computer skills and media
technology as more 'essential' than the study of European history, biology,
chemistry and physics; than dealing with social problems such as drugs and
family breakdown; than learning practical job skills and than reading modern
American writers such as Steinbeck and Hemingway or classic ones such as
Plato and Shakespeare." (Washington Post 11 May 98)

TEXAS ATTORNEY GENERAL DOES ABOUT-FACE ON MICROSOFT SUIT

After opting out of a multistate antitrust lawsuit against Microsoft, Texas's attorney general Morales has changed his mind and now plans to play a key role in leading upcoming negotiations, along with attorneys general from New York and Wisconsin. Microsoft has agreed to delay shipping its Windows 98 operating system until Monday in return for a delay in the states' antitrust litigation. The states are now scheduled for talks with Microsoft tomorrow, and sources say the negotiations could last all week. (Computer Reseller News 14 May 98)

SUN EXTENDS JAVA DISPUTE TO WINDOWS 98

Sun Microsystems is expanding a long-running contractual dispute with Microsoft, filing motions with a U.S. district court judge to order Microsoft to ship a version of Java with Windows 98 that is compatible with Sun's version of the software. Microsoft first licensed Java from Sun in 1996, but then began tinkering with the code, adding "refinements" that can be used to write programs that only work with Windows. Sun sued Microsoft over the refinements last fall. "The problem is that Microsoft has breached the licensing agreement and is delivering an incompatible implementation of Java into the marketplace," says the president of Sun's software division. Although it is unlikely that Sun's latest move would delay Microsoft's release of Windows 98, scheduled for Friday, Sun is arguing that Microsoft should be held in contempt of court if it proceeds with its plans. (Wall Street Journal 13 May 98)

AMERICAN EXPRESS TEAMS UP WITH DATA MINING COMPANY

American Express has formed a relationship with a "data mining" company called KnowledgeBase Marketing in order to be able to sell merchants detailed information on which people are most likely to purchase which products and services. KnowledgeBase obtains its information from public sources, and keeps data such as home values, ages and sexes of household occupants, etc. Privacy advocates are worried about ventures of this kind, but an AmEx executive says that by helping retailers and marketers more closely target their most likely customers, the ultimate result of the project would be to cut down on the overall quantity of junk mail and junk phone calls. (USA Today 13 May 98)

GORE WANTS AN "ELECTRONIC BILL OF RIGHTS"

An "Electronic Bill of Rights" presented by Vice President Gore in a commencement speech at New York University calls for Congress to pass legislation protecting the privacy of medical records, announces establishment of a Web site that consumers can use to delete their names from direct mail and telemarketing lists, requires that each federal department and agency create a privacy officer to ensure compliance with existing laws, and announces a privacy conference in June sponsored by the U.S. Commerce Department. (New York Times 14 May 98)

REGULATORS OUT TO BLOCK MURDOCH'S SATELLITE SALE

U.S. antitrust regulators plan to go to court to block the $1.1-billion sale of a key television satellite slot by Rupert Murdoch's News Corp. and MCI

Communications Corp. to a group of cable operators. News Corp. and MCI had
hoped to sell a slot suitable for a direct broadcast satellite to Primestar
Inc., which is owned by TCI Satellite Entertainment, Time-Warner Inc.,
MediaOne Group Inc., Comcast Corp. and Cox Communications Inc. (Toronto
Financial Post 13 May 98)

     SENATORS 99, SLAMMERS 0

The Senate has voted 99-0 in approval of a measure that imposes stiff fines
and penalties on phone companies found guilty of "slamming" -- the practice
of using subterfuge to switch the long-distance phone service of customers
without their permission from their present service provider to that of the
company engaged in slamming. A study prepared by the Federal Communications
Commission has reported that slamming complaints rose from 16,000 in 1996 to
44,000 in 1997. (NY Times 13 May 98)

     3D MODELING

Using the San Diego Supercomputer Center's Laminated Object Manufacturing
machine, researcher Mike Bailey has been producing detailed, accurate solid
models of such things as complex protein molecules (at a scale of
20,000,000:1) for Salk Institute and Scripps Research Institute; terrain
maps of the surface of Venus, the Earth's ocean floor, and active seismic
zones for planetary scientists and geologists; mathematical functions and
abstract shapes; and prototypes of mechanical objects. (Discover June 98)

     COMPUTER CRIME

Criminal Justice professor David Carter of Michigan State University
predicts that criminal gangs will turn to cyber-terrorism in the next
century -- tapping into corporate computers for data such as product
information and marketing lists, and then threatening to destroy the files
unless money is paid. "They could even hack into a traffic control computer
and change things as simple as the programming of street lights and traffic
signals, as you see in movies." (Ottawa Citizen 13 May 98)

     ULLMAN ON THE DUMBING-DOWN OF PROGRAMMING

In the first part of a new two-part Salon magazine essay called "The
Dumbing-Down Of Programming," software engineer Ellen Ullman says: "We build
our computers the way we build our cities -- over time, without a plan, on
top of ruins." Ullman's recent book, "Close To The Machine," published by
City Lights Press and excerpted in Educom Review and Harper's, has received
wide praise from the critics and is being translated into several other
languages, including Japanese and German. http://www.salonmagazine.com/21st/

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STReport is proud to award the Blue Ribbon Editorˆ s Choice 1998 to WS_FTP Pro 5.0

Here are just a few more great reasons to buy or upgrade to WS_FTP Pro 5.0

Highlights

* Session profile support for connecting to frequently accessed FTP sites (see connecting with the Windows Explorer Interface and connecting with the Classic Interface)

* Advanced support for handling timeouts, port numbers, passive file transfers, and firewalls

* Support for more than 50 host file systems

* Convenient drag-and-drop capabilities to simplify and speed-up your file transfer tasks

* Auto re-get feature for automatically resuming interrupted transfers

* File maintenance options to help prevent overwriting of same or newer files and preserve the original file date and time from remote host (Windows 95 and NT versions)

* Support for custom applications developed using the WS_FTP Pro Development Kit

* Command line support for automating file maintenance operations

* Year 2000 compliant

* New in Version 5.0 (32-bit Versions)

* Choice of user interfaces: all-new Windows Explorer interface or "classic" WS_FTP Pro interface (either or both may be installed)

* Both interfaces powered by the same reliable WS_FTP engine

New Explorer Interface Provides:

* Seamless integration with Windows Explorer

* Ease-of-use (you need not even be aware that you're using FTP)

* Support for "remote to remote" transfers

Buy it for the same low price of $37.50.nn Upgrades from version 4.5 are
available for $19.95

"I've got to admit that WS_FTP is worth every cent! I just downloaded our
web pages, brought up the main page, corrected spelling, and uploaded the
revised page; all without disconnecting and in about 2 minutes."

     David Smart
     President - Passport Travel, LTD.
     Halifax, NS Canada

"WS_FTP saved my hide when I had to make a number of very important changes
to a Web site and my line to the Internet constantly failed. The ability to
continue where I left off was a real life-saver."

     Thane Terrill
     Baha'i International Community
     New York, NY USA

"Remote to Remote" Transfers with WS_FTP Pro

Using the Windows Explorer Interface, you can transfer files from one FTP
server to another, if the destination supports third party transfers. Ideal
for telecommuters and others who find they can save valuable time by
transferring large files between remote destinations while eliminating the
intermediate step of first transferring those files to their local PC.

Transferring files between remote servers:
     * Connect to the destination site and locate the desired destination
       folder.

     * Connect to the source site and open the folder from which you want to
       copy the file(s).

     * Locate and select the file(s) you want to copy, and select Copy from
       the Edit menu.

     * Select the folder to which you want to copy the
       file(s), and select Paste from the Edit menu.

You may also use drag and drop if it's easy to arrange the source and
destination locations so you can see them both.

"We have a Tandem K1000, a Novell network, and a IBM RS/6000. We are about
to add an AS/400. With all these different systems, we are constantly moving
files from one platform to another. Without WS_FTP Pro, I would have even

less hair than I do right now!"

    Rich Ewalt
    First American Bank
    Elk Grove Village, IL USA

GOVERNMENT (STATE & FEDERAL) RUNNING UNCHECKED and DERANGED?

An Opinion

Part 3

By R.F. Mariano

Here we are, at the third segment and the DOJ and a FEW of the State AG's
are making noises. Texas AG, Morales, is seemingly a joker or "Court Jester"
to be more accurate. He jumps a few weeks ago and claims he gonna do this
and that to Microsoft and then, states that Texas is no longer interested in
the MS matter. Now, once the DOJ makes a few aggressive noises, Morales is
all set to go again. Personally, if I were a taxpayer and citizen in Texas,
I'd jump all over this grandstanding fool and ask him loud and clear "WHAT
ABOUT THE BORDERS OF TEXAS THAT ACT AS A SIEVE AS FAR AS ILLEGAL ALIENS AND
DRUGS ARE CONCERNED?? One has to wonder if perhaps the tasks of the real
world of law enforcement are too great for AG Morales of Texas. His state,
like New Mexico, are major gateways into the USA for all sorts of illegal
drugs, like China White and Mexican Mud Heroin, Cocaine, powder, paste and
cookies, Pot, Hash (Lebanese Blonde and Opiated Black) and a host of
designer drugs. Then we have the illegal aliens, taking jobs away from both
aliens holding green cards and US Citizens. Come On, AG Morales, knock off
the "grandstanding"ˆ Belly Up to the table and take on the real problems
facing your State and the USA. Like I said I feel its far too big a task for
you.

Look at the glee among the Gates Haters over the three day delay of Win98!
Isn't that amazing? It takes so very little to turn these people on. Or, is
it that they already know they are on the short end of the stick of reality.
By the end of the month, all the laundry will be hanging out to dry. By then
we'll know if there is any fairness left in this country.

What do I mean? Well, back in the first segment I asked the readers to check
out BFI Industries, (they collect garbage, refuse and recyclables), ConAgra
(monstrous food and grain conglomerate) and now, joyfully add one more to
the list- Phillip Morris Corp. yep thatˆ s right the cigarette people. But
did you know hoe much ELSE they outrightly own and control?? Do the homework
friends, do the checking. Once you do on these threeˆ youˆ ll soon realize
the nonsense against MS is truly politically driven. Asst. USAG Joel Klien
has either been sent on a "snipe hunt" or, he's part of the "Gameplan." What
game you say? Why naturally, to keep the DOJ in the publicˆ s eye, proving

Janet Waco/Ruby Ridge Reno is doing "her job" and perhaps taking the "heat" off the Starr/Clinton Crusades.

Agree? - Disagree? Let us know drop us a line or two at
rmariano@streport.com

     They're STILL at IT!!

Senate Judiciary Committee Chair Orrin Hatch, R-Utah, said the three-day truce showed the government clearly had the upper hand.

"The fact that Microsoft is negotiating with the Justice Department and apparently is prepared to make substantial concessions certainly undermines any argument that Justice has no case," Hatch said. "Microsoft would not be at the table unless it felt that Justice had a very strong case."

Yet Washington state Republican Sen. Slade Gorton drew the opposite conclusion, giving a spirited defense of Microsoft's claim that its 95 percent market share in PC operating systems is a result of consumer choice, not raw market power.

"Today's agreement between Microsoft and the Department of Justice is the latest in a series of backpedaling by the Justice Department and the states attorneys general," Gorton told reporters assembled on the lawn of the Capitol. "The state attorneys have abandoned the slightest pretense that they are representing consumers. There is no damage to consumers."

   Microsoft Confirms Continuing Discussions with Government

Windows 98 on Schedule for June 25 Launch, but Microsoft to Delay Until Monday Release to PC Manufacturers

Redmond, Wash. - May 14, 1998 - The Microsoft Corporation confirmed that it has completed all work to develop Windows 98, but has agreed with the Department of Justice and State Attorneys General not to release the product to computer manufacturers until Monday. The company confirmed that it has taken this step so that discussions with the Government, which have been proceeding for over a week, can continue. The company said it continues with plans for the commercial launch of Windows 98 to consumers on June 25. Microsoft will have no further comments at this time on its discussions with the Government.

Founded in 1975, Microsoft (Nasdaq "MSFT") is the worldwide leader in software for personal computers. The company offers a wide range of products

and services for business and personal use, each designed with the mission
of making it easier and more enjoyable for people to take advantage of the
full power of personal computing every day.

Appeals court sides with Microsoft on Windows 98

A U.S. Court of Appeals sided with Microsoft Corp. Tuesday by preventing a
lower court decision issued last year from interfering with the release of
Windows 98. The appellate court order, which will have no effect on any new
antitrust case that states or the Justice Department may file, said the
government had a very weak chance of winning a permanent injunction against
Windows 98 under the old U.S. District Court case from last year. The
three-judge appellate panel ruled on a narrow Microsoft motion that is part
of a large, complicated case involving a 1995 consent decree the company
signed.

Lucent starts digital radio venture

Lucent Technologies Inc. said Monday it is developing digital audio
broadcast systems that will provide listeners with greatly enhanced sound
quality for AM radio and near-CD quality for FM radio. The Lucent Digital
Radio venture will develop In-Band On-Channel systems, a digital enhancement
to current analog radio broadcasting systems, the company said in a
statement. There are more than 12,000 radio stations in the United States
(AM and FM combined), and the number of radios owned in the United States is
more than 500 million, or more than 5 pe
 household. Digital audio
broadcasting systems are expected to be commercially available starting in
2000, the company said.

Imat on to develop SuperDisk drive

Imation Corp. and Panason c Industrial Co. said they will develop the first
SuperDisi drive for the Universal Serial Bus, a type of link for couputer
peripherals. The announcement follows Wednesday's unveiling by Apple
Computer Inc. of its new consumernMacintosh, iMac, which will feature two
USB ports f r peripherals. iMac will begin to ship in August, the same
time-frame in which USB SuperDisk drives also are expected to be available
to iMac purchasers, Panasonic and Imation said in a joint statement. The USB
SuperDisk drive, like other SuperDisk drives, will be fully read/write
compatible with today's PC-formatted 120 MB SuperDisk diskettes, 1.44 MB
diskettes and 720 KB diskettes. It will also read and write existing
Mac-formatted diskettes and Mac-formatted SuperDisk diskettes, the companies
said.

Hewlett-Packard to introduce new Internet products

Hewlett-Packard Co. was scheduled to unveil Monday its new "e-business"
strategy with a line of products designed to help more companies, including
itself, make better use of the Internet. While HP describes the new products
as "mission-critical" for online transactions, analysts say they could be
equally critical to HP. The company, which is best known for things like PCs
and printers and calculators, has been slow to make some of its products
relevant to the Internet. Without a clear strategy in this area it risks
losing business to competitors like IBM Corp.

Yeltsin eyes world stage in Internet debut

Russian President Boris Yeltsin, turning his attention to foreign policy, is
to make his debut on the Internet Tuesday to field questions about a summit
of world leaders in Britain later this week. But his new cabinet, finally in
place after weeks of political turmoil, will be wrestling with the many
economic problems at home that still hamper Russia's efforts to be treated
by the West as an equal on the world stage. Yeltsin was scheduled to fly
Friday to Birmingham, England, for the annual gathering of the Group of
Eight (G-8) main industrial nations in the English city of Birmingham. His
Internet interview will focus on the Birmingham summit, where Yeltsin will
be hoping to build on his good personal ties with other leaders.

Apple touts new system, to retain MAC OS core

Apple Computer Inc. said it would combine the core of its Macintosh
operating system with elements of its high-end Rhapsody software in a new
operating system that would be Apple's biggest leap in technology since
1984. The new operating system - Mac OS X (10), - is due out in 1999. Apple
said its advantages will include memory protection when the system crashes,
much faster networking and a faster launch time. "The Mac OS has 22 million
customers," interim Chief Executive Steve Jobs told the Apple Worldwide
Developers' Conference.

Microsoft expects Sun to sue over Windows 98

Microsoft Corp. officials said they expect rival Sun Microsystems Inc. to
file a lawsuit seeking to block the shipment of the forthcoming Windows 98
operating system. Tod Nielsen, manager of developer relations, said
Microsoft remained confident it would ship Windows 98 to computer
manufacturers as planned this Friday (May 15) for retail sale beginning June
25. (Reuters)

Yeltsin takes to cyberspace ahead of summit

President Boris Yeltsin took to cyberspace Tuesday to announce he was in
excellent health and to pledge that Russia would never return to what he
called the "Communist psychosis." The 67-year-old president also told
surfers of the World Wide Web he did not think Russia was ready to be led by
a woman. Shortly before making his Internet debut, Yeltsin used the much
more traditional setting of Russia's foreign ministry to outline the
country's international priorities at a forthcoming summit of world leaders
in Birmingham, England.

Intel opens Europe's first 0.25   micron unit

U.S. microprocessor Intel Corp. opened Europe's first 0.25 micron
microprocessor production factory in Leixlip, east Ireland, costing $1.3
billion. The new factory, called Fab 14, will produce advanced
microprocessors, Intel said. It also plans to convert its existing facility
Fab 10 to the 0.25 micron process technology to be completed next year at a
cost of several hundred million dollars, it said.

German court starts CompuServe porn case

A German court opened proceedings Tuesday in a case that could define local responsibility for pornography available through the Internet. After nearly three years of investigations and pre-trial hearings, the former head of the German division of CompuServe on-line service, spent his first day in court to defend himself against charges of distributing child pornography and other illegal materials. Prosecutors alleged Felix Somm, 34, should be held responsible because CompuServe provided access in Germany to illegal pornographic pictures and Nazi texts that were available via the Internet from computers in other countries. Somm said he expected to be cleared of the charges.

Who GETS The Last Word

I can think of at least three good reasons why Windows 98 should be allowed to ship as scheduled, but none of those reasons includes a national economy lying in tatters because Microsoft was barred by the feds from shipping an upgrade to Windows 95.

No comment was met by more head scratching in my travels last week (which included San Francisco, Silicon Valley and NetWorld+Interop in Las Vegas) than Gates' attempt to buttress his right to ship an unfettered version of Windows 98 as a type of economic elixir that if bottled up by the regulators will send the economy into a tailspin (see "Gates: Windows 98 delay would be a disaster").

Here are my three good reasons;

   * First, Windows 98 is a decent upgrade to Windows 95.

   * Second, it does not overstep any real or imagined monopolistic
     boundaries that the company has not already crossed. Microsoft could
     hardly usurp any more browser market share than Netscape is currently
     shedding by continuing to engage in a strategy du jour that is leaving
     even the strongest Netscape loyalists unsure of what kind of company it
     really wants to be.

   * Third, I do believe that the outcome of a government blockade of the
     Windows 98 ship date would be to discourage innovation rather than to
     encourage competition.

The episode has to be perplexing and a business nightmare for Gates. For someone whose favorite disparaging remark is to discount someone as not being sufficiently "technical," finding one of his company's main products in the hands of chest-thumping legislators has to be beyond his understanding. Maybe that is why the company seems to be flailing about in its attempts to present a coherent stance against the Windows 98 blockaders. But arguing that a shipping delay of Windows 98 might unhinge the economy is weak on two levels.

* First, if Windows 98 really is that vital to the economic engine, it
     only adds more fuel to the argument that Microsoft holds monopolistic
     sway over the computer industry.

   * Second, Microsoft's record of shipping major products on time is so
     spotty that, if you believe a delayed Windows 98 will engender an
     economic drag, you could argue the company has all along been a drag
     rather than an engine of economic growth.

The best news last week for Microsoft came from a company senior vice
president, Jim Allchin, who at NetWorld+Interop said the Microsoft's NT 5.0
release is advancing briskly and will indeed offer all the important
components, including Active Directory and IntelliMirror, that are essential
to the success of the product. Perhaps Gates' time would have been better
spent championing NT among the technical folks in Las Vegas rather than
trying to orchestrate support for Windows 98 around an economic argument
that rang a bit hollow.

STR Editor's Mail Call "...a place for the readers to be heard"

     Editor's MailBag

     Messages * NOT EDITED * for content

From: Bill [billh@radix.net]
     Sent: Sunday, May 10, 1998 11:47 AM
     To: Ralph F. Mariano
     Subject: Wazzup ???

Behave Mr. Mariano.

I have no "closure" on the bad old Atari days. I had captured several megs
of messages from Compu$erve during the Nathan and Darlah days, but never was
able to ascertain for sure just what happened to Atari. It was a good thing
that was constantly sandbagged; was it Father Jack, or was it his offspring?
I also can't figure out what became of the minions. Do you have this to read
in one inclusive summary? It would make a good beginning-to-end story.

I notice on TV ads for classic Atari games on ?Sega? that the copyright seemed to be Atari/JTS. God help us all.

I have now and then talked with Ron Luks, to me one of the good guys who tried so hard to be objective in the face of all the obfuscation.

Believe it or not I once had a complete collection of Current Notes, from the beginning (had bought them at Novatari meetings). Last time I moved I threw out all but a half dozen. I often wonder what became of the magazine.

Was the Atari ST known to be a one-trick pony all along (that it would never evolve) by those who promulgated its virtues? (I have no idea what that word means other, make these voices stop). They seemed to embody the worst virtues of a corporation; constant cheapening of the product, layoffs, everything but quality, oursourcing, on and on.

Ah yes, I once had a single line Forem BBS called "The LoyaliST" and carried your magazine on the main menu. It would be nice to have BBSes make a return of some sort. Maybe.

Hope all is well with you!

p.s. who will police the police, monitor the monitors? Also, I'm having a bad time getting Big D/Ls. I'm thinking about throwing $20 at my ISP for a month's worth of drive space so I can ftp to my shell account, then download at X2 speed fromt here. Beats this fragmented packet stuff. Saw a post from a guy with cable modem who said it took him 23 minutes to pull a similar sized item.

I had ISDN for a year and half and disconnected it for financial reasons, and they keep jacking up federal this and that charges. It's a good service, always rock solid instant connections, but it's not priced for po folks. (We have no true "flat" usage pricing, there are packages but they are still expensive). Flat here is $249/month!!!! Flat cable modem is $64 but I can't do that as they have no server storage for web pages.

        Hiya Bill! Good to read you and hope all is well with you too!

Subject: Win 98 Will Cost - Msg Number: 431736
    From: Frank Shallenberger 76447,3002
    To: Ron Asche 71167,126
    Forum: MSWIN95 Sec: 02-Freestyle Chat
    Date: 11-May-98 19:33

>> The cost for the Upgrade Version will be $110.00. The cost for the Full Version will be $200.00. <<

I heard, on a computer talk show recently, the opinion that Win98 is mostly
Win95 with bug fixes, and that most changes are cosmetic. Therefore, the
opinion went, to upgrade from Win95 should cost about $30, while an upgrade
from Win 3.1 should cost about the same as Win95 (about $90).

-Frank

        Here Folks, is the typical bleating of mis-information being
        proffered about the computing world as fact.

        Its sad, because this writer "heard" some yahoo "blowing smoke" it
        became fact upon fact.n These so-called analysts, mavins or whatever
        simply have to be taken with a grain of salt.

n

Subject: Win 98 Will Cost - Msg Number: 431817
    From: John Kaufmann 71562,1015
    To: Ralph @ STReport 70007,4454
    Forum: MSWIN95 Sec: 02-Freestyle Chat
    Date: 12-May-98 12:58

Ralph,

I don't want to get into an argument on the merits of MS products in general
(which you apparently regard highly, without reservation), nor of Win98 in
particular (which earns superlatives and exclamation points in your review),
nor of Win95 (which you apparently regard as the next best thing to Win98).
MS products are certainly not the worst ever produced, and represent, at
least, a triumph of the principle that mediocre products with great
marketing will beat great products every time.

> Thank God its [sic] a free country [USA - this *is an international
forum,<

Indeed it is. The purpose of government action to ensure free markets is to
keep it that way - a principle recognized since this country's founding, and
codified a century later in the Sherman Anti-Trust Act. Of course, there is
a constant tension, between too much and too little government action, in
the balancing act to maximize freedom for all, a tension classically
summarized by Theodore Roosevelt. But it's as silly to trivialize the issues
and rail against the evil forces of doj, as it is to maintain that only
government can do what is best for all; neither extreme rises above the
juvenile.

FWIW, it's amusing to see someone rant against "the Control Freaks" -- and
then argue *against diversity and for uniformity under the banner of MS
(your points a, b, c). Most major software engineering innovations in the
past 18 years have come from outside MS, as one would expect. Many have
been incorporated into the design of Windows. Many more have been lost or

not yet incorporated, despite technical superiority. But why complain about
the "geek programmers" who have developed *every* major application
advancement, as well as systemic advancements like O-O design, CUI and DDE
(all incorporated in sub-optimal implementations in W95) -- as if somehow
only the superior market presence of MS matters?

Tell you what: If you really want to evangelize for MS products in general,
and Win98 in particular, rather than flacking:

>People you need to know that Windows 98 is superb... its faster, much n
more stable [than what? - earlier Windows? is this truly a *compliment?] and
despite all the rumor mongers and naysayers, it IS a MAJOR upgrade...<

> Windows 98 is a MUST upgrade ... I'll continue to use Win98 and Never look
back!<

try this: Hang around here and answer questions -- real operational
questions. I admit to being new to W95 [which, BTW, despite your strange
aversion to DOS, seems to be still a DOS application]. But I've been around
computers for 30 years and seen perhaps a dozen major operating systems (if
you include several flavors of Unix) and I know that W95 is probably the
most used system. (The only contender, in terms of numbers of users, would
be the rest of the DOS family.) So I'm really shocked at the number of
*basic questions that go unanswered here, among people who are relatively
knowledgeable and are trying to get to answers. Wander around the other OS
forums in CIS, and see if you find people having so much trouble getting
answers. So here's the deal: If you know something about this system that
others do not know, by all means share your knowledge, and help people solve
their problems. You will win more friends for W95, and by extension W98,
than by ranting and raving.

- John

For a guy who doesn't want to get into an argument... he sure is trying
real hard <g>

Subject: Win 98 Will Cost - Msg Number: 432082
    From: Ralph @ STReport 70007,4454
    To: John Kaufmann 71562,1015
    Forum: MSWIN95 Sec: 02-Freestyle Chat
    Date: 14-May-98 7:49

>> As I said, I don't want to get into an argument on the merits of MS
 products, and did not. That's for another time, if you like. My point was
 simple: Obviously you want to build support for Win98; OK. You would do
 much better by providing support for Win95 [a mess of an operating system
 for which many *basic questions go unanswered, even here among
 conscientious and relatively knowledgeable users], than by flacking for
 Microsoft and attacking the competition and "the Control Freaks and Gates
 Haters" and "geek programmer"s and "DOS babies". It was unseemly and

unhelpful. If you want credibility for your position, help. <<

Agreed.....

And, I might add, that's exactly what I do. Now, When Win98 hits... I'll be
right here and many other places offer advice and help where needed. As for;
"the Control Freaks and Gates Haters" and "geek programmer"s and "DOS
babies" the answer is simple.... if the shoe fits wear it and if those who
find a fitting shoe care to advance their computing endeavors, I'll be there
to help them too. I don't know you John, nor have I seen many of your posts
in this or other forums but I'm glad you raised the points you did. At least
you had the chutzpah to do so. I, and I'm certain many others, will be more
than eager to assist when Win98 hits the streets. It is a marvelous upgrade
to Win95. There simply aren't enough positive things that can be said.

Ralph F. Mariano @ STReport International Magazine

- CompuServe & Internet Explorer 4.01+ - ISDN, Simply the best!
  - WEB Site; http://www.streport.comn - STR NEWS Server;news.streport.com
  - Email; rmariano@streport.comn - STR FTP   Server;ftp.streport.com

Subject: Win 98 Will Cost - Msg Number: 432136
    From: John Kaufmann 71562,1015
    To: Ralph @ STReport 70007,4454|
    Forum: MSWIN95 Sec: 02-Freestyle Chat
    Date: 14-May-98 15:14

But why should users who are still looking for *basic answers on a
relatively mature Win95 want to open another can of worms? -- on the basis
of assurances from people who did not deliver the first time? There's an
old adage about that ("Fool me once ...") -- which is to say, it does not
take "chutzpah" to ask these questions, merely a healthy sense of
proportion.

If you have answers about Win95, giving them =now= will improve your
credibility WRT Win98. If not, it is difficult to credit assurances that
things will magically improve with the expenditure of a couple hundred more
dollars.

- John

STILL TRYING!!n Gotta give him an A for effort. <g>

From: Jim Vaughan jvaughan@jps.net
    Sent: Saturday, May 09, 1998 7:17 PM
    To: rmariano@STREPORT.COM
    Subject: Win 98

You asked for feedback. Well here you go.......

I think most people have no idea of the implications of the current
government action against Microsoft. It will, if successful, destroy the
software industry as we know it.

I write software (I own a small software company) and I rely on Microsoft to
set standards. I need a standard to write code around. Without a standard we
go back to the bad old days prior to the IBM PC. I wrote software in the
early days of PCs. We had a version of our software for the P-System, UNIX,
CP/M and DOS running on all kinds of different hardware. I spent about five
days a month writing new code, the rest of the time was spent making sure
that code worked on all the different platforms.

Just imagine what it would be like now if this had happened back in the
early days of DOS. In order to buy a working computer you would have
to buy:
    * DOS
    * GUI
    * A file manager
    * tcp/ip stack and all of the dial up networking code
    * Browser
    * Java
    * Network software
    * Audio playback
    * Video playback
    * etc etc etc etc

All of these would, I assume, be offered by several sources. Each product
would be different. No one would guarantee that they all work together.
Worse still, I couldn't guarantee that my software would work with whatever
combination the user had purchased. It would also cost a lot more.

The really crazy thing is Netscape needs a tcp/ip stack to work. So I assume
they think it's OK to incorporate a tcp/ip stack into Windows but the not
the Browser. I am sure Trumpet disagree. Prior to the tcp/ip stack being
incorporated into the operating system, Trumpet had a nice little business.
They are still around, but I don't know anyone who uses Trumpet Winsock
anymore. Sure that was bad for them, but prior to this all on-line services
used a different stack. None of them worked together, this meant if you used
CompuServe you couldn't also use Netcom (or at least no normal user could, I
figured out how to, but most could not).

I think we all need to realize that the Browser is not an application it's a
APIand APIs are the operating system. What else is an operating system if
not a collection of APIs. Even the application side of the Browser has
become a standard part of the operating system, can you imagine a PC without
one?

As you say, one thing is for certain. Any politician that tries to hurt
Microsoft is trying hurt me as well. I don't like being hurt and will make

sure that on election day they all realize the error of what they are doing.

Jim Vaughan
     Redondo Beach, CA
     ICQ 4493332
     jvaughan@jps.net
     jim_vaughan@csi.com

Jim,

I believe you've said the best way yet.
Thanks for reading STReport

Special Notice!! STR   Infofile File format for Articles

     File Format for STReport
All articles submitted to STReport for publication must be sent
in the following format. Please use the format requested. Any files
received that do not conform will not be used. The article must be in an
importable word processor format for Word 6.0 and/or Word Perfect 7ˆ .
The margins are .05" left and 1.0" Monospaced fonts are not to be
used. Please use proportional fonting only and at Twelve (12) points.

   * No Indenting on any paragraphs!!
   * No Indenting of any lines or "special gimmicks"
   * No underlining!
   * Columns shall be achieved through the use of tabs only. Or, columns in
     Word or Word Perfect format. Do NOT, under any circumstances, use the
     space bar.
   * Most of all-. PLEASE! No ASCII "ART"!!
   * There is no limits as to size, articles may be split into two if
     lengthy
   * Actual Artwork should be in GIF, PCX, JPG, TIF, BMP, WMF file
     formats
   * Artwork (pictures, graphs, charts, etc.)should be sent along with
     the article separately
   * Please use a single font in an article. TTF Times New Roman 12pt. is
     preferred. VERY Strong Hint)

If there are any questions please use either E-Mail or call. On another
note- the ASCII version of STReport has reached the "end of the line" As the
major Online Services moved away from ASCIIˆ . So has STReport. All in the
name of progress and improved readability. The amount of reader mail
expressing a preference for HTML as opposed to our Adobe PDF enhanced issue
is running approximately 11 to 1 over the PDF edition.n Cited are size,
graphic quality and speed of download.

I'm elated that requests for our issues in HTML far outnumber PDF. So PDF
too, like ascii, is gone. HTML is now a reality.n On our web download page
is a selection for HTML (Read or Download). As you can see, STReport will
not be caught in the old, worn out "downward compatibility dodge" we must
move forward.

Many grateful thanks in advance for your enthusiastic co-operation and
input.

Ralph F. Mariano, Editor
rmariano@streport.com
STReport International Online Magazine

Classics & Gaming Section
      Editor Dana P. Jacobson
      dpj@streport.com

> From the Atari Editor's Desk   "Saying it like it is!"
   """"""""""""""""""""""""""""""

The rain has _finally_ decided to cease after the first 11 or 12 days this
month! I have to tell you, this long a period of wet dreariness is too
much to handle. Bring on Spring!

Memorial Day weekend is rapidly approaching - where have these past five
months gone? Looking forward to getting caught up with some yard work:
flowers and vegetables. Then it's cleaning up some of the "fringe" areas
of the yard, finish re-seeding some areas, and hoping to see some more
grass growing. Then we tackle the pool, inside the house, and maybe...
relax one weekend! If we're lucky, we'll be semi-ready for our first
Memorial Day barbecue with friends. We'll see.

As you may have noticed earlier in this issue, the industry news has been
decreased. I'm gradually going to faze it out due to time constraints.
Perhaps someone will take up the gauntlet, or the Edupage articles will
have to suffice by themselves. I also wish to thank Joe Mirando for his
generous offer to convert the HTML version of STReport to ASCII, as I've
been doing for the past couple of months. Ralph hasn't found a suitable
converter on the PC to do the job; and, demand for the ASCII version is
still high. The Atari HTML to ASCII converters aren't perfect, so once the
issue is run through the program, it's still necessary to format a lot of
the issue and also remove some of the odd HTML control codes and occasional
PC-only font codes.   It's still a laborious task and the reason why our
mail-subscription service and online uploading has been delayed 12-18 hours
recently.

Well, it's getting late, so let's get to this week's issue!

Until next time...

Mummies Playtime Beta V0.1
From: Deano <Deano@zetnet.co.uk>

Hi all, I have my game Mummies Playtime in a workable state at the
moment and I am looking for people to test it. Download it from

http://www.users.zetnet.co.uk/sillysoftware/Playtime.zip

Note it has only two sub games at the moment and no sound and its not a big file so shouldn't take too long to download. The colour goes a bit funny under Pacifist v0.48 as well. Can someone test it on STFM's, STE's, Falcons, and Pacifist (especially V0.46) and let me know if you find any bugs or can suggest some improvements. Please reply to Deano@zetnet.co.uk

 Yours Faithfully (In a very Silly way)

 Deano (Silly Software Programmer)
 Email Deano@zetnet.co.uk
 http://www.users.zetnet.co.uk/sillysoftware/

JTS Announces Consent to Removal of Listing From AMEX

SAN JOSE, Calif., May 11 /PR Newswire/--JTS Corporation (Amex: JTS), today announced that it is consenting to the removal of its Common Stock and 5 1/4% Debentures from the American Stock Exchange (AMEX).

This action became necessary because the Company no longer fully satisfies all the guidelines of the AMEX for continued listing. The AMEX has advised that the last day for trading of the Company's securities on the AMEX will be Friday, May 22, 1998.

The Company expects that a market for its securities will develop over the counter following removal from the AMEX.

AMEX Stocks With New 12 Month Low Price At 4:30 PM

ALEXANDRIA, VA, May 12, 1998 (COMTEX) -- Today's stocks on the American Stock Exchange that have set a new 12 month low price.

	New Low	Last	Change	Volume
JTS Corp	1/8	1/8	-3/32	2,332,500

>In This Week's Gaming Section - "Gran Turismo"! "Devil Dice"!
 """""""""""""""""""""""""""""""   "Yoda Stories"!
                              Electronic Arts 'Up'!

>Industry News STR Game Console NewsFile - The Latest Gaming News!
 """

THQ Brings LucasArts' 'Yoda Stories' to Nintendo Game Boy

CALABASAS, CALIF. (May 11) BUSINESS WIRE - May 11, 1998 - THQ Inc. Monday announced that it has signed an agreement with LucasArts Entertainment Co. LLC to develop and publish "Yoda Stories" for the Nintendo Game Boy videogame system.

The game, which chronicles Luke Skywalker's intriguing adventures as he trains to become a Jedi Knight, is scheduled for release in the United States in November 1998.

"Yoda Stories," which was previously released by LucasArts as a mini-desktop adventure for PC CD-ROM in Spring 1997, will take gamers through a collection of short quests where they encounter a variety of well-known Star Wars characters in familiar environments. Along the way, gamers explore different worlds, collect artifacts, tools and weapons, and engage in combat against Imperial Stormtroopers, bounty hunters and alien creatures.

"Teaming up with LucasArts gives THQ a great opportunity to bring a premier property such as 'Yoda Stories' to the Game Boy platform," said Brian Farrell, president and chief executive officer, THQ. "With 'Yoda Stories,' children of all ages will get a quick dose of pure fun and entertainment while once again reliving the magic of the Star Wars adventures."

"With THQ bringing LucasArts' 'Yoda Stories' to Game Boy, game players will have yet another way to enjoy the Star Wars experience," said Jack Sorensen, president of LucasArts.

Gran Turismo Drives Videogame Racing to New Levels

FOSTER CITY, CALIF. (May 12) BUSINESS WIRE - May 12, 1998 - Demonstrating its ability to consistently propel the platform and raise the bar for videogame genres, Sony Computer Entertainment America announced today the release of Gran Turismo, the world's most advanced racing game, available exclusively for the PlayStation(R) game console.

The overwhelming popularity of the videogame racing category continuously demands greater innovation and authenticity, and Gran Turismo delivers on all counts unlike any other game for the home video game market. It is the realism that marks the greatest difference.

Players can choose from more than 150 "real" cars from manufacturers such as Acura, Aston Martin, Chevrolet, Dodge, Honda, Mazda, Mitsubishi, Nissan, Subaru, Toyota and TVR. Each car is based on its own unique set of specifications to create a sophisticated physics model, allowing game players to "feel" the difference in the handling and driving characteristics of their car.

Combined with the unprecedented realism is an incredibly fun game. Game players can start off with a quick and intense arcade-style game pitting themselves against a friend in two-player mode or match their skills against six "computer" controlled opponents. Players can also opt for the sophisticated and in-depth Simulation Mode where they can buy a huge variety of cars, race them and win money to customize their car with more than 200 different upgrade components.

They can also qualify for three different licenses where players take a

series of tests designed to refine and/or teach them new driving skills. Earning licenses allows the players to qualify for more advanced races where the prize purses are greater.

With handling agility and throttle response that mirrors a true racing feeling, the incredibly realistic racing experience of Gran Turismo is further fueled by unparalleled 3D graphics. The television quality visuals are achieved through highly detailed car models and a revolutionary environment mapping, which utilizes PlayStation game console's graphical capabilities to the extreme.

"The response and anticipation for Gran Turismo has been phenomenal, already receiving rave reviews. In Japan, the title has already sold more than two million units," said Andrew House, vice president, marketing, Sony Computer Entertainment America. "Gran Turismo is clearly the most ambitious and realistic racing videogame on the market and has significantly raised the bar by setting new standards for the racing category. The race is on."

THQ Expects to Roll Winning Number With "Devil Dice"

CALABASAS, CALIF. (May 12) BUSINESS WIRE - May 12, 1998 - THQ Inc. Tuesday announced that it has signed an agreement with Sony Computer Entertainment Inc. (SCEI) to publish "Devil Dice," an addictive puzzle game, for the PlayStation game console.

The title is scheduled for release in North America in September 1998.

"Devil Dice" is the ultimate multiplayer 3-D puzzle game for the advanced PlayStation console. Gamers can choose to beat the clock or up to four other players in a frantic, high-speed circus of tumbling dice. They can also delve into a set of 100 brain-twisting strategic puzzles. Enthusiasts must also contend with the complexities of playing with five types of dice.

"This brilliantly simple but addictive game is a great addition to THQ's diverse product line," said Brian J. Farrell, president and chief executive officer, THQ. "We are excited to work with Sony in bringing a challenging puzzle game home to the millions of PlayStation fans here in the United States."

"THQ's proven video-game success in the United States makes them an excellent partner for this must-have puzzle game," said Akira Sato, co-chief operating officer, Sony Computer Entertainment Inc. "'Devil Dice' was the hit of the recent Tokyo Game Show and is easily one of the most entertaining games of the year."

"Devil Dice" is scheduled for launch by SCEI in Japan in June.

Electronic Arts Fourth-quarter Net Rises 45 Percent

Electronic Arts said its fiscal fourth-quarter net income rose 45 percent as the world's biggest video game software company added 15 new games for different types of machines.

Electronic Arts also said it expects a strong year in fiscal 1999. Net income could rise 40 to 45 percent from fiscal 1998 levels while revenue could rise 27 percent, Electronic Arts' chief financial officer Stan McKee said.

"There's still a great growth prospect," McKee said. "People (on Wall Street) probably think we are being conservative."

After the market closed, Electronic Arts said fourth-quarter net income rose 45 percent to $15.4 million, or 25 cents a share on a diluted basis, from $10.6 million, or 18 cents, in the same quarter a year ago.

Wall Street had expected the San Mateo, Calif., company to earn 24 cents a share, according to a recent analyst survey by Zacks Investment Research.

Revenue for the quarter ended March 31 rose 31 percent to $204.1 million from $156.2 million the year before.

Electronic Arts writes video games for personal computers and popular game machines, like Sony's PlayStation and Nintendo's N64. The company's strong growth was tied closely to explosive sales of the PlayStation during the quarter, McKee said.

Electronic Arts also introduced several new games that quickly became best sellers. Top sellers during the quarter were Need For Speed III, Triple Play 99, March Madness 98 and F- 15, the company said.

Strong sales likely will continue in the new fiscal year on continuing strong sales of the PlayStation, McKee said. PlayStation sales likely will not dip for at least a couple of more years.

Geographically, fourth-quarter revenue rose 59 percent in North America, 22 percent in Europe and 8 percent in Asia.

The company said it expects to increase its market share of games for personal computers in 1998 with the introduction of SimCity 3000, a long-awaited update to a classic city simulation game.

The results were released after the market closed. Its shares closed down 62.5 cents at $45.25 on the Nasdaq.

For the year, net income rose 41 percent to $72.6 million, or $1.19 per share on a diluted basis, from $51.3 million, or 86 cents, in fiscal 1997.

Revenue for the year rose 35 percent to $908.9 million from $673 million last year.

ONLINE WEEKLY STReport OnLine   The wires are a hummin'!

PEOPLE... ARE TALKING

Compiled by Joe Mirando
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Hidi ho friends and neighbors. Another week has come and gone, and as springtime looms large ahead of us things again begin to slow down in the Atari world. Like a child's see-saw suddenly left unattended, activity goes up and down. Each time it goes up, it goes up less than it used to. Eventually the tug of such esoteric things as gravity, resistance, and entropy will insure that the see-saw becomes motionless. It's just the nature of things.

Someone asked me recently about what might have happened if Atari had been able (and willing) to continue producing TOS based computers and if each successive generation of those computers had been on par with what we are seeing in the PC world today.

That is a tough question. First of all, even if Atari had continued to remain competitive with other platforms, there is no guarantee that the processors available would have kept pace with THEIR counterparts. Even though Motorola, the manufacturer of the venerable 68000 series of processors, started out with a much more advanced design, integrated circuits are not their only business. In fact, unlike Intel, ICs make up a small percentage of their overall sales so there isn't as much incentive to make more advanced versions.

Of course, if the Atari line of computers had evolved into a more competitive machine alongside the average PC, Motorola might have found that it was worth their while to concentrate on processors. That's the 'chicken-and-egg' part. Would Atari have done better if Motorola had concentrated on processors more, or would Motorola have concentrated on processors more if Atari had done better? Who knows.

One thing I _do_ know is that the die-hard Atari "fanatics" left (including myself) would not be the people that they are now. More popular machines attract more software. More software gives you more choices without having to fuss and fret over things. Without the fussing and fretting we don't grow as fast. Wasn't it Nitsche who said "That which does not kill us makes us stronger"?

I don't know about you, but I'm fairly happy with who I am and the things I've learned. The great people I've met along the way are an added bonus. Some of them have 'evolved' into Windows users, some have evolved into Mac users, and some have even transcended the need for computers altogether.

Just look at this magazine. Out of the editors and regular contributors to this magazine, more than half are now or have been Atari users. I know that I probably wouldn't have ever gotten hooked up with these characters if I'd started out with an IBM compatible. I would have been oblivious to the need for online news and help, happily plugging away at whatever pablum the powers that be saw fit to release as the latest and greatest. I might even have become one of the "un-computer users" because of disillusionment. So I guess you could say that I'm what I am today because Atari couldn't keep up with the other guy. And maybe that's not such a bad thing.

Well, now that the Prozac is kicking in, let's take a look at what's being said on our favorite online service.

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From Delphi's Atari Advantage Forum
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Several weeks ago, for some long forgotten reason, someone mentioned a
child's game known as hopscotch. Tony Greenwood tells us:

"Yes it is [called] Hopscotch here in England, not a girls game
though, the only real girls game we have here is rounders. Always has
been for girls. Boys where not even allowed to play it when I was at
school....I think in the USA its called baseball ?...

I really could not resist that... and its true by the way."

Our own Dana Jacobson tells Tony:

"Baseball is a game (in England) only played by girls? That sounds very
peculiar! <grin> It's a professional sport here, as well as many other
countries - why would it be any different in England?  Is the game
identical in both countries, or different such as is our games of
"football" (rugby vs football)?"

Tony tells Dana:

"No baseball isn't played in England.. Rounders is played in England,
usually only in Schools and invariably always by Girls only... Not
being a Girl (honest) and never having seen baseball, I don't know if
there are any differences... only that its the same game... probably bits
different.

Cricket...Now there's a game!!!"

Dana tells Tony:

"Cricket? Nah, that's a noisy bug.  <grin>"

"Turbo" Nick talks a bit about a service that requires special
software... I won't give you their name, but their initials are AOL.
<GRIN>:

"I never did like the idea of an online service that requires the user
to run their proprietary interface software.  It seems that it would
cause many people to become dependent on that service."

**Yeah, and what vendor of a commercial service would want THAT??
Carl Barron tells Nick:

"I don't feel hooked on AOL or CSi, because of their software.  but I
sure wish [there was] a better alternative to what AOL is using at
present.

A net access is very nice. and makes being connected to more than one
service at the same time on the same phoneline possible. I do it often
now that everyone is so much a month, rather than by the minute used.

I access all the services [except genie] on one phone call and often
more than one at once.

I dislike AOL's confining software and their continuous snail's pace.
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Its ok for conferencing but all else its too slow..."

Nick asks Carl:

"How do you access more than one online service at a time? And what are the advantages of that?"

Carl tells Nick:

"Well I can download my messages from CSi, monitor and 'speak' if desired in an aol conference and read my delphi messages all at once. as an example. I have even attended a csi and aol conference at the same time. Now that everyone has a so much a month plan, I don't worry about actual time on line:) Conferences are not 'high speed' anyway....

The first thing I do after getting to where I want to start aol, csi or netscape, is to run my offline newsreader in the background. All that junk mail and news is collected while I do something 'constructive'.

I try to keep it to 3 or less things running at once, just to keep my sanity."

Dana Jacobson posts:

"I've been recently talking with former Atari VIP, Don Thomas about coming online some night for a chat/conference. Don, as usual, is more than happy to do so. However, due to his schedule at Sony these days _plus_ the fact that he's on the west coast, a weekday evening chat would be held too late for the majority of members here to attend. So....I'm recommending that we have a conference on a Saturday evening - probably a more conducive time for most members (textside and webside) to attend.

If this sounds like a good idea to you, please reply to this message. I'd like to set it up well enough in advance to promote it here in the Atari Advantage, and Delphi's promotional areas both textside and webside.

Thanks for your input. If there's a date that's really good for everyone, let's plan it. Sometime late May or early June would likely be logical choices - before people's summer vacations kick in! <grin>"

** C'mon folks! Send Dana a note to say that you think this is a great idea. Don was at Atari for a long time, and is one of the few people there that was able to 'lay down with dogs' without "getting up with fleas". He was a true insider with a unique perspective on what happened, what didn't happen, and why. Watch STReport for more news of this event as details become available!

Rob Mahlert, author of Web Page Creator, posts:

"I hate to say it... but I bought a PEE CEE. What the feelings on the PC Atari emulators? I still want to use PageSTream, and GFA Basic, and a others. Yes, I am staying in the Atari Community... I have a project in the works, more on that in the future..."

Greg Evans tells Rob:

"Get TOSBOX from the author of SilkBoot, SilkMouse, etc. It's only $10 and runs well in standard ST modes. No ROMS needed but you do need to

make a TOS image of your ROMS. Alternatively, get GEMulator '98 but I
think you need ROMS for that and it's over $100 to boot. It used to
support MagiC instead of ROMS but I think that's no longer the case.

What speed cpu did you get? Did you throw caution and your money to
the wind and buy a 400 mhz P-II???"

Rob replies:

"I got a K6-233, 32megs of RAM, 4.3 gig HD, 12x CD, and a TX II
motherboard with built in VGA and Sound. I'm using my SVGA and 56k
modem from my TT. the system cost $500. From what my PC friends tell
me, I got a GOOD buy..."

Greg Evans tells Rob:

"$500?!? Wow! Should make a nice Atari clone running TOSBOX!"

Michael Burkley of Suzy-B Software tells Rob:

"I have just bought a new PeeCee (Pentium II, etc,). I use both TOS
Box by Mark Slagell (of SilkMouse and all the Silkware programs fame)
and GEMulator by Darek Mihocka. Previous to my new computer I liked
TOS Box better than GEMulator as it seemed that the mouse moved along
the screen a bit more naturally, and the screen display was easier to
see because Mark had designed it to fill up the whole screen rather
than just the ST sized screen as in GEMulator.

But once I upgraded the PC I also upgraded to the newest version of
GEMulator. I've found that Derek has improved the emulator so very
much. Of course it runs faster on the faster machine, but that doesn't
matter so much to me as the improved display. It acts like a normal
ST/TT now with smooth mouse movements, which is very important to me.
I'm not sure how much of that is due to an improved videocard and
faster processor and how much is due to his programming skills. He has
made it an option to fill up the whole screen with the Atari screen
(increasing the font size, etc.) which is very nice.

I'm using GEMulator now instead of TOS Box, though since I've sent my
$15 off to Mark for TOS Box I'm keeping it around (it runs some things
that GEMulator doesn't).

I don't like PaCifiST as it has been practically taken over by pirates
who use it to run all sorts of stolen ST software. The author knows
about it and doesn't even try to put a stop to it, and that's enough
for me to stay away from it...

The new GEMulator does support the use of TOS ROM images and MagiC as
well. "

GKIEFFER tells Michael Burkley:

"Well.... I to have a PC[586] that I've had since 01/1993... OF course
I still have my Atari-Mega-STe.... BUT when I've also used something
called.... PC64 = IBM PC Commadore 64 emmulatior... HOW do you get the
games? DISK IMAGES OF THE ORIGIONAL COMMERCIAL DISK & shareware of the
commadore stuff. The same thing applies to those PacifiST emmulator.
You get the better games from the DISK IMMAGE of the commercial
ones....

SINCE many of those commercial games won't be seen in a ibm 1.44 high
density floppy drive.... IE: Gunship.... HAVE you checked out
something called "MAME" That EMMULATOR will play all the COMMERCIAL
ARCADE GAMES. The ones you used to supply with your quarters... ARE
NOW FREE... BUT it's still ILLEGAL. Hmmmmm...... MORAL OF STORY: To
be 100% on the legal side.... NEVER!!! use any EMMULATORS!!!"

I jump in and tell GKIEFFER:

"Oh, not true! Emulators are wonderful things, and can be used well
within the law quite easily...

If I bought a copy of Gunship back when it was one of the hottest,
newest games around, I don't just own the manual, box, and disk... I
own the right to use the software. That's the reason it's legal to
make image copies of TOS from your own machine, but not to grab the
image from the internet when you've never owned a TOS machine in your
life, but want to run some of the neat STuff that's been written for
TOS machines over the years. (I'm not pointing any fingers, you
understand, just making a point. So please don't take it personally).

If someone DOES have a TOS computer and for some reason can't run one
of the programs to create an image of TOS, I _assume_ that it would be
okay to grab one from one of those web pages. The same would hold true
(again, I'm assuming here) for games and other programs.... If you own
a copy of it, I see no reason that you shouldn't be able to take
advantage of the availability.

The no-no part to me is the "something for nothing" switch. That's the
one where someone says "Hey, I supported the platform when I bought
that used 520. I'm entitled to all those games". You'd be amazed (or
maybe you wouldn't) at how many people have actually talked themselves
into believing things like that.

My rule of thumb is, "If you didn't pay for it, it ain't yours". Plain,
simple, and easy to live by.

I see very little value in TOS emulators anyway, since just about any
application that was or is available for the Atari has an equal or
better counterpart in the PC world. True, there are some things that
were done exceptionally well for the ST that have no peer in the PC
world, but they are few and far between now.

I've always figured that if I ever make the jump into Gates-ville I'd
be better off bucking the learning curve and going 'native'.

Well, it's just my opinion."

Well folks, that's it for this time around. Be sure to tune in again
next week, same time, same station, and be ready to listen to what
they are saying when...

PEOPLE ARE TALKING

EDITORIAL QUICKIES

A fire started on some grassland near a farm in Indiana. The fire department
from the nearby town was called to put the fire out. The fire proved to be
more than the small town fire department could handle, so someone suggested
that a rural volunteer fire department be called. Though there was doubt
that they would be of any assistance, the call was made.

The volunteer fire department arrived in a dilapidated old fire truck. They
drove straight towards the fire and stopped in the middle of the flames.

The volunteer firemen jumped off the truck and frantically started spraying
water in all directions. Soon they had snuffed out the center of the fire,
breaking the blaze into two easily controllable parts.

The farmer was so impressed with the volunteer fire department's work and so
grateful that his farm had been spared, that he presented the volunteer fire
department with a check for $1000.

A local news reporter asked the volunteer fire captain what the department
planned to do with the funds. "That should be obvious," he responded, "the
first thing we're gonna do is get the brakes fixed on that stupid fire
truck."

John Hole/WUGNET [Enfield,Middlesex,UK]

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